

VZCZCXYZ0010
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHQQT #0208 0841219
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 251219Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0197
INFO RUEHBW/AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 8060
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4122
RUEHSL/AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA 0005
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 3472
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR LIMA 3120
RUEHSQ/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE 0013
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0006
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL 4215
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 0009
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0180
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 0435

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000208

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: TWENTY YEARS
TAGS: PREL AORC ICJ UN KV EC
SUBJECT: ECUADOR DEMARCHE RESPONSE ON KOSOVO RECOGNITION

REF: A. STATE 11928
1B. QUITO 126
1C. 08 QUITO 879
1D. 08 QUITO 775
1E. 08 QUITO 395

Classified By: DCM Andrew Chritton for Reasons 1.4 (b&d)

11. (C) In light of recent bilateral tensions over the expulsion of two U.S. diplomats (Ref B), Post did not deliver the demarche on Kosovo until March 23, when PolOff conveyed Ref A points to MFA Bilateral Affairs Director General for Europe Pablo Villagomez. Villagomez reiterated the GOE's position (Refs C, D, E) that it supported review of the case by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and would wait for a decision by the Court before announcing a change on its position regarding recognition of Kosovo's independence.

12. (C) PolOff questioned whether Kosovo's independence should be a legal or political issue; Villagomez responded that the case included both elements and that the ICJ was an institution that deserved international respect. PolOff countered that after an extended period of international administration aimed at building Kosovo's capacity for self-government and a UN-led process of negotiation, sending the Kosovo independence issue to the ICJ would risk creating additional uncertainty and instability in the Balkans and would question the credibility of UN-led processes.

13. (C) When questioned whether the GOE would recognize Kosovo's independence if the ICJ rules in favor or against the legality of Kosovo's claim of independence, Villagomez said he could not confirm. Villagomez did agree, however, that it was highly unlikely that Kosovo could ever re-integrate itself with Serbia under Serbian rule.

HODGES